

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01330 261246Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 /090 W
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R 261030Z JUN 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6385
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, IZ, SP
SUBJ: VISIT OF SPANISH KING TO IRAQ

1. KING JUAN CARLOS AND QUEEN SOFIA VISITED IRAQ JUNE 22 AND 23. DESPITE IRAQ'S REVOLUTIONARY AND ANTI-MONARCHICAL PRETENSIONS, REGIME RESPONDED TO ROYAL GESTURE WITH A MOST UNREPUBLICAN BURST OF WARTH AND LAVISH PROTOCOL.
2. PRESIDENT BAKR RECEIVED VISITORS AT AIRPORT AND PERSONALLY BADE THEM FAREWELL. BOTH RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSAIN AND VICE PRESIDENT TAHA MAAROUF PAID COURTESY CALLS ON KING JUAN CARLOS AT THE GUEST HOUSE.
3. IN ADDITION TO IRAQI-HOSTED PROGRAM, KING RECEIVED MEMBERS OF SPANISH COMMUNITY AND ENGAGED IN SOME EFFECTIVE GRASS ROOTS POLITICKING WITH SPANISH WORKERS AND TECHNICIANS INVOLVED IN PROJECTS WITHIN IRAQ.
4. VISIT DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE RESULTED IN ANY NEW AGREEMENTS.

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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01330 261246Z

MEETINGS OF MEMBERS OF THE KING'S DELEGATION WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS, INCLUDING THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS, TOOK PLACE DURING THE COURSE OF THE VISIT BUT APPARENTLY AIMED ONLY AT SETTING A FRAMEWORK FOR A GRADUAL EXPANSION IN IRAQI-SPANISH RELATIONS. SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE EMPHASIZED THE POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASED SPANISH EXPORTS TO IRAQ AND GREATER INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT

PROJECTS. DIPLOMATIC CORPS, HOWEVER, IS REPEATING A STORY THAT SPANISH OFFERED TO SELL THE IRAQIS 50 ARMORED CARS.

5. COMMENT: KING'S VISIT CAME AT A MOST OPPORTUNE TIME. IRAQ IS SEEKING TO REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE BOTH UPON SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS MAJOR WESTERN EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS. SPAIN, WITH ITS HISTORIC LINKS TO THE ARAB WORLD AND ITS REFUSAL TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, IS IN AN IDEAL POSITION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS TREND.
PECK

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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